

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal**

Section 1. General administrative information

**Coville Confederated Tribes Performance Contract
(Credits For Habitat)**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9506700

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Business acronym (if appropriate) CCT

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

Name Steven L. Judd, Senior Wildlife Biologist
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Email address

Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
Mid Mountain Surveyors	850 Barrett Creek Rd.	Republic, WA 99166	Grant Tolton

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

Project conforms to Section 11 as stated in the 1994 program as amended in 1995

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

N/A

Other planning document references.

N/A

Subbasin.

Short description.

Evaluate potential mitigation sites by Tribal personnel and purchase when available for inclusion in the Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range project #9204800. Provide some funding for O & M and enhancements to additional acres acquired.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction		Watershed
	Resident fish		O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
X	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other	X	Resource mgmt		Fish disease
			Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement		Wildlife habitat en-
			Acquisitions		hancement/restoration

Other keywords.

Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #		Nature of relationship
9204800		Parent project. This project is a segment of it.

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Acquisition of new lands	a	Appraisals
		b	Acquisition of new land
2	O & M	a	Habitat protection

		b	Evaluating and monitoring
3	Coordination activities	a	Agency and public input
		b	Columbia River Mitigation
4	Enhancements	a	Plan enhancement activities
		b	Implement enhancement activities

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	10/1994	9/2000	
2	10/1994	9/2094	50.00%
3	10/1994	9/2094	
4	10/1999	9/2050	50.00%
			TOTAL 100.00%

Schedule constraints.

Note % of costs are for FY 99. Lack of adequate funding would cause scheduling delays.

Completion date.

2094, unless rolled into parent project 9204800.

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel		
Fringe benefits		
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	Enhancement	\$50,000
Operations & maintenance		\$50,000
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel		
Indirect costs		
Subcontracts		
Other		
TOTAL		\$100,000

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
O&M as % of total	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%

Section 6. Abstract

The project funds the purchase of habitat to permanently protect, manage and enhance wildlife habitats and areas for specific target species. It also funds a portion of the enhancement and O&M for the Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Project #9204800. A wide array of non-target wildlife species will also benefit through the protection of habitat. Habitat protection improves water quality, reduces erosion, and natural sustaining vegetative community conditions can be maintained. Portions of acquired lands contain miles of river and stream frontage that will directly benefit resident fish habitat. This along with protection and management of the adjacent uplands will indirectly benefit anadromous fish through improved water quality.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Land is finite and the human population continues to increase altering more and more habitats. The creation and operation of the federal dams on the upper Columbia removed over 80,000 acres of various habitats. These areas are lost forever. To mitigate for these losses new habitat must be purchased and protected. Today land uses bordering the Columbia River are primarily livestock grazing and logging which continue without the welfare of wildlife as one objective. This project makes funding available to purchase habitats similar to those that were lost due to inundation. Although similar they are not the same low elevation habitats and require funding to protect, maintain and support the wildlife species frequenting the areas. This project provides the funds to purchase, protect and maintain critical habitat. Lands already purchased by the project were livestock operations and competed with wildlife use on critical habitat types and areas. High potential exists that if the lands were not purchased for mitigation they would have been converted to recreational and home site development. To fully mitigate for habitat losses large blocks of land must be managed for bio-diversity. Ecosystem management must substitute for single species management. Biological diversity must be sustainable and large tracts or blocks of habitat are needed. Enough habitats must be protected from human disturbance to provide viable species populations with enough habitat reserves for species expansion. This project has the means to accomplish a portion of this goal.

Some annual funding is carried in this project for FY99 and onward. This will be used under the Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Project #9204800 to help meet O & M and Enhancement cost because of the large acreages added to the project base under this project.

b. Proposal objectives.

Acquire management rights to properties to be used for wildlife mitigation in the most feasible, cost effective manner.

1. Implement short term operation and maintenance (O & M) activities to secure and protect properties. i.e.: remove and prevent livestock trespass, control noxious weeds, secure capital investments, plan fire control.
2. Perform baseline habitat evaluation procedures (HEP) to provide baseline management data and to provide initial crediting to BPA.
3. Prepare long term site specific management plan for properties. Plan will contain: Basic soils and vegetative community types data. Current condition of properties, desired future condition, enhancement alternatives necessary to reach desired future condition, O & M activities necessary to protect and manage sites. Monitoring and evaluation standards and methods needed to measure progress towards meeting objectives.
4. Implement O & M enhancement and M & E activities. As per site specific management plan.
5. Using adaptive management practices manage project properties in perpetuity to protect and enhance wildlife habitats and populations to partially mitigate for losses caused by Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph hydroelectric projects.
6. Report project activities, successes and failures, if any, in annual reports. Provide periodic reports on any special or experimental projects as appropriate. Present activity summaries to interested groups as appropriate.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

This project will provide long term protection, management, and enhancement of acquired lands. It will increase the biodiversity, improve soil conditions, water and vegetation quality and quantity. Wildlife populations will benefit because of these actions. The protection and enhancement of these lands will provide improved habitat conditions for wildlife species dependant on specific habitat types, increasing the overall bio-mass and species diversity. Adequate funding is necessary to achieve the desired levels of management activities planned for this project. Habitats are being altered or destroyed by man every year reducing the amount and quality of necessary life requirements for wildlife species. This project protects core areas and habitat buffers for wildlife species in a variety of habitats. Enhancement activities are designed to increase the values for wildlife species in each habitat type. The goal is to acquire enough area to sustain viable populations of management species representing a guild of species for each habitat type with room for expansion of these populations.

d. Project history

The Colville Performance Contract project began in 1994. It provided a method for getting funds to the Tribes and getting Habitat Credits to Bonneville under the Washington Wildlife Agreement. This project has acquired about 11,800 acres of land for wildlife mitigation. These lands are managed under project #9204800 Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range. This project will continue to provide some funding for O & M and enhancements of these lands.

e. Methods.

The methodology for the protection, maintenance and enhancement for project lands is described in the draft Hellsgate Site Specific Management Plan, 1998. The plan covers the management activities for each management unit and associated cover types. Monitoring will involve the use of periodic HEP analysis comparisons to baseline data as well as information obtained from permanent transects and photo points. By comparing this data over time management activities can be evaluated against project goals and objectives. Activities proposed and methods used to achieve them will also follow those outlined in: Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project, Final Environmental Assessment, 1995 and Wildlife Mitigation Program, Final EIS, DOE/EI S-0246, 1997 Management will follow the SOW outlined in the yearly contract with BPA and summarized as follows:

The main goals of the Project are:

To manage, protect and enhance wildlife habitats and associated wildlife species using adaptive management based on sound ecosystem techniques and principals.

To continue Operation and Maintenance activities on Project lands.

To monitor and evaluate over the long term so that Project objectives (outlined in management plan) are being met.

To coordinate with BPA and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) when Project activities take place.

f. Facilities and equipment.

All major facilities and equipment for this project are in place at the present time.

However, due to the long term nature of the project, situations may arise in the future that necessitate acquisition of additional facilities and equipment. This can not be accurately determined at this time.

g. References.

Ashley, P. and M. Berger. 1997. Columbia River Wildlife Mitigation Habitat Evaluation Procedures Report, January 1997. DOE/BP-95-M39607. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Berger, M. 1993. Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project Long Term Management Plan. Draft Report 1993. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Berger, M. 1995. Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Proposed Mitigation Lands Assessment and HEP Analysis. Draft Report, 1995. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Berger, M. 1997. Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project HEP Report for New Acquisitions, 1997. Draft Report 1997. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Berger, M. 1998. Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project Site Specific Management Plan. Draft in progress.

BPA. 1995. Hellsgate Winter Range: Wildlife Mitigation Project, Final Environmental Assessment. DOE/EA0940. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

BPA. 1997. Wildlife Mitigation Program, Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS-0246. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Creveling, J. and B. Renfrow. 1986. Wildlife Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement Planning for Grand Coulee Dam. Final Report 1986. DOE/BP-86BP60445. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Kuehn, D. and M. Berger. 1992. Wildlife Habitat Impact Assessment Chief Joseph Dam Project, Washington. Project Report 1992. DOE/BP-91BP14775. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

This project is tied closely to the Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project #9204800.

Section 9. Key personnel

Steven L. Judd, Senior Wildlife Biologist
Matthew T. Berger, Project Biologist
James V. Smith, Wildlife Area Manager

The personnel involved with this project meet the educational and experience requirements of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for these types of positions. The Tribes are the entity charged by law with the responsibility for carrying out these types of activities.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Project personnel work in cooperation with other agencies and groups within the region, who contribute to project activities and planning. A citizen advisory group and a technical task team are kept informed of all project activities. Project personnel and other agency personnel have developed HEP model for monitoring and measuring habitats for selected wildlife species. The following is a list of technical reports developed from this project: Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Long-Term Mangement Plan, 1993. Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Proposed Mitigation Lands Assessment and HEP analysis, 1995.

Columbia River Wildlife Mitigation Habitat Evaluation Procedures Report, January 1997.

Draft Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project HEP Report for New Acquisitions, 1997.

Project personnel worked with WDFW in developing HEP models and methodologies to evaluate habitats for wildlife mitigation. Draft Mule Deer, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Pygmy Rabbit and Sage Grouse models were developed for use on mitigation projects.

This project provides opportunities for Information exchanges on species and habitats through enhancement activities with other federal and state agencies. This project participates in cost sharing opportunities with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).